

Bay County Extension Council

Minutes
May 16, 2007

Date: May 16, 2007

Time: 5:25 p.m.

Place: MSU Extension Bay County, Third Floor, Large Conference Room

Members Present:

Mary Jo Brandt

Philip Engelhardt

Joyce Gavord

George Heron

Robert Kernstock

Lyle LeCronier

Marybeth Laisure

Doug Rise

Elaine Sobieray

Members Excused:

Bill Palmer

Others Present:

Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant

Karen Parker, Program Associate

Jodi Schulz, 4H & Youth Development Extension Educator

Howard Wetters, County Extension Director

INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Doug Rise, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. Minutes of the March 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved. There were no additions to the agenda. Under old business, revised bylaws language on lifetime membership and standing appointments for all 4-H council presidents to sit on Extension Council was presented and discussed. Standing appointments to Extension Council for all 4-H advisory board presidents was accepted as presented. It was acknowledged that the 4-H advisory board will need to amend their individual bylaws to reflect the appointment action.

There was some discussion on defining renewable terms for a life time, honorary, and emeritus member. Other options would be to allow one position to hold a six year (doubled) term. Honorary positions would not be a voting member. No changes were made to the presented language. Both language changes will be voted on at the next regular business meeting.

Under new business, Ms. Karen Parker, program associate, presented the Better Kid Care program to Council. Ms. Parker provided a BKC educational manual and informational brochures for review; and described the study modules that are provided to participants in this very interactive program format. Study modules include, but are not limited to: nutrition, child development and safety, daycare business management and professional development. Childcare providers can earn continuing education training toward their licensing by taking part in two training programs: 36-Hour and 18-Hour (Relative Care). The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides a one-time incentive to take the Better Kid Care program. Ms. Parker explained how the program could be delivered via a group setting or in-home visits (satellite series). Educational

videos are available on loan. SIDS training is now on-line. MSU Extension partners with Saginaw Valley 4Cs in providing professional development training. CPR and first aid certification is also available. Licensed childcare providers need CPR recertified every year, first aid every two years. Relative Care (18-Hour training program) is offered to all child care providers: anyone who may care for children, even if they do not have a daycare business, and want to increase or refresh their knowledge of child safety and development. Better Kid Care has been presented to many local community organizations, including the senior coalition, area schools systems, and others.

Mr. Wetters thanked Ms. Parker, Ann Arnold, and Robin Wiess for all their hard work and dedication to delivering continuing education to child care providers in Bay, Arenac, and surrounding counties in MSU Extension's Central Region. Mr. Wetters acknowledged Ms. Arnold's absence from tonight's meeting as she is on vacation. Also, Jan Rise could not attend tonight because of a previous commitment. Chris Reisinger could not attend tonight because his son was born today: welcome, Noah William.

Also under new busniess, Mr. Wetters invited Extension Council to attend fair and livestock auction. MSU Extension Bay County plans on having a larger presence at fair this year, including a breast-feeding and diaper-changing station for fairgoers (Rock and Rest tent). He explained our ideas on marketing MSU Extension at fair. A schedule of planned programming events and staff coverage was provided. A current schedule of fair events from the Bay County Fair Board Website was also provided. There was discussion on if Extension Council would like to participate in fair events and when to meet as a group for the August meeting. It had already been decided by Extension Council at the last meeting to meet informally at the 4-H livestock auction on Thursday, August 9, at 5:15 p.m. Since there was some interest in a tour of the fairgrounds and 4-H venues, two options were presented to Council on the meeting and tour expectations. Option II was agreed upon: meet at 5:15 p.m., with a short meeting before the livestock auction. Partake in the buyer's reception, then attend the livestock auction or take a tour. Both are optional. At this time a location for the Bay County Emergency Services trailer, which is to be used as a mobile office, has not been determined. Therefore, details on where Council will meet will be sent out in a notice prior to the meeting date. Parking permits will be provided.

Since most of the Extension educator staff was unable to attend tonight's meeting to report their program area activities, Mr. Wetters passed out copies to Council of the Bay County Executive's quarterly report. This report details not only MSU Extension's activities for the last quarter, but all county departments. Some Council members asked that Council members be put on the mailing list for this report.

Mr. Wetters proceeded to provide Council an update on ANR, Family Consumer Science, and the Master Gardener program, in addition to general MSU Extension and Community and Economic Development activities. The focus of ANR activities that

Chris Reisinger is working on is linolenic oil/soybean seed plot, farmer's market work group, and the e-Fresh pilot produce program.

Mr. Wetters said that he has requested the Board of Commissioners for an opportunity to talk at one of their future meetings about the recent published results from the issue's identification process and upcoming fair.

Mr. Wetters asked Jodi Schulz to talk about 4-H program activities. Ms. Schulz reported on 4-H club fundraisers and events, like the Shaggy Spring Fling, the 4-H Livestock Council's carwash (for barn improvements), March of Dimes walk, Camp Fish Tales, and other community service projects. With school coming to an end, MSU Extension will continue to work with schools and youth groups in providing educational programming. Exploration Days and Pork Quality Assurance (PQA is required for youth who show hogs at fair) are more traditional events coming up. Cloverbud Camp (sponsored by 4-H Advisory Council); Ag Olympics (sponsored in part by Farm Bureau); and 4-H day to watch the Great Lakes Loons are new events this year. Ag Olympics will be held for youth on the Friday of fair. Mr. George Heron noted that MSU Extension 4-H also worked on Delta College's Reality Store event. This event helps kids learn how to run a household budget. Ms. Schulz offered that one of her long-time 4-H leader and volunteer, Carol Socier, won a national prize for her Strawberry Cream Surprise pie; and will be recognized on an upcoming episode of the Ellen Degeneres talk show.

Referencing the count executive's quarterly report, Mr. Wetters asked Council to look at the numbers (the volume) of programming done under the Family Consumer Sciences program area: Family Nutrition Program, Better Kid Care, Building Strong Families, Breast Feeding Initiative. Mr. Wetters talked a little about how well the breastfeeding club is being received by local moms, and that some have expressed interest in volunteering to man the Rock and Rest tent at fair.

The Children's Trust Fund grant, which is the primary funder of the Successful Futures program, will be renewed in the 2007-2008 grant year. MSU Extension Bay County is hoping to receive shortly a \$10,000 mini-grant FY 2006-2007 to provide respite care to Successful Futures clients. The hope is to be able to spend these additional dollars into the next program year since they are being received so late in this program year. Proposals have been made for two additional Department of Human Services (DHS) to expand parenting programs, Mr. Wetters stated, for wrap-around care under a home-visiting model. A longtime relationship will be able to be established with families to provide parenting resources. The goal is to lessen child protective service cases and child removals from the home. Brief discussion centered socio-economic changes in our community.

Mr. Wetters shared his effort working, locally and regionally, with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, including the volunteer presence planned at fair and the upcoming Bay County 150 year celebration events. Mr. Wetters

is also working with community groups to promote Bay County as a “community for a lifetime.” This is a type of designation, formerly known as Elder-friendly communities, will help local economic development.

The Master Gardener Volunteer program held its annual banquet in April, as part of national volunteer week. A bus trip to the MSU gardens is being planned.

Ms. Joyce Gavord thanked Mr. Wetters and Ms. Arnold for the opportunity for her to attend an educational program, “Happiest Toddler on the Block.” The facilitator was Dr. Harvey Karp and the topic focused on how to quiet a crying baby and other child care tips - and a great DVD. MSU Extension Bay County sponsored Ms. Gavord to attend event in March.

Mr. Rise adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN

- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve the March 21, 2007, meeting minutes.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

WHAT’S NEXT AND FOLLOW UP

- Final bylaws language review and approval to add lifetime membership and standing appointment for 4-H council presidents.

Prepared by J. Delestowicz